

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note that the outstanding office action is the fourth time in which previously allowed claims are rejected. “Under the principles of compact prosecution, each claim should be reviewed for compliance with every statutory requirement for patentability in the initial review of the application . . . Thus, USPTO personnel should state all reasons and basis for rejecting claims in the first Office Action . . . A failure to follow this rule will lead to unnecessary delays in the prosecution of the application” (emphasis added) MPEP 2106 II, pg. 2100-5. The MPEP further states that “piecemeal examination should be avoided as much as possible.” MPEP 707.07(g). Moreover, a “claim noted as allowable shall thereafter be rejected only after the proposed rejection has been submitted to the primary examiner for consideration of all the fact and the approval of the proposed action. Great care should be exercised in authorizing such a rejection.” (emphasis added) MPEP 706.04.

As a result of repeated rejections of previously allowed claims, Applicants have been subjected to unnecessary delays in the prosecution of their application. To avoid further unnecessary delays in the prosecution, Applicants hereby request an interview with the Examiner and his supervisor if any more previously allowed claims will be rejected.


The Examiner’s allowance of claims 5-44 and 58-78 is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 56-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Verrall et al. in view of Kaneko et al. and Ukai et al. Claims 56-57 are hereby canceled.

Since the subject Amendment only cancels the rejected claims, no further search is believed to be required. Accordingly, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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February 1, 2007

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